

### Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault

### Learning at All Levels

Education for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

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- Definitions
- Disability Respect
- Risk Factors
- Learning Impacts
- Teaching Concepts
- Resources

## Take Care of Yourself



# Learning Objectives

- 1. Define intellectual and developmental disability.
- 2. Identify why this population is more likely to experience sexual violence.
- 3. Understand how intellectual and developmental disabilities impact learning.
- 4. Implement disability-informed education concepts.

# **Defining "Disability"**



- Vision
- Movement
- Thinking

(CDC)

- Remembering
- Learning
- Mental Health

- Communicating
- Hearing
- Social Relationships

# **Disability Respect**



# **Disability Respect**

- Use person first language.
- Asking before offering assistance.
- Talking to the person, not the caregiver.
- Treat people like adults.
- Use teaching strategies based on developmental age, but content based on chronological age.

# People with intellectual disabilities are <u>7x</u> more likely to be sexually assaulted.

(Justice Department via NPR series "Abuse & Betrayed")

## **Risk Factors**

- Dependence on outside help (parents, caregivers, aids)
- Communication barriers
- Socialized to comply from a young age
- Social isolation/desire for acceptance
- Lack of sex education
- Desexualization of people with disabilities
- Seen as less credible

# Learning Impacts

How do people with intellectual and developmental disabilities learn differently?

- Difficulty understanding new information
- Difficulty with communication and social skills
- Slow cognitive processing times
- Difficulty with sequential processing of information
- Difficulty understanding abstract concepts

# **Teaching Concepts**

- Key statements should be highlighted and repeated. Repetition is key!
- Use clear, straightforward language
- Avoid abstract concepts
- Use real life examples that are specific to their experiences
- Allow extra time when presenting
- Use assistive technology to communicate
- Present in different formats (activities, videos, handouts, etc.)
- Provide an outline of what will be talked about
- Give notice of what will be discussed next session

## **Practice Makes Perfect!**

Take an <u>abstract</u> concept and practice making it <u>concrete</u> for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Be creative!

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